



SPW

## PATENT APPLICATION

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q80405

Kozo NOGI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/798,346

Group Art Unit: 1711

Confirmation No.: 5598

Examiner: Irina Sopha Zemel

Filed: March 12, 2004

For: SURFACE CROSSLINKING TREATMENT METHOD OF WATER-ABSORBING  
RESIN POWDER

#### **RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This timely responds to the Election of Species Requirement, dated August 31, 2006 (September 30, 2006 being a Saturday). The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to more than one distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner believes claim 1 is generic. Applicant has been advised that a response to this requirement shall include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant elects the species recited in claim 15 for examination, without traverse. Claims 1-15 are readable on the elected species.

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES  
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Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims is found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 2, 2006